

Health Homes Herald

July, 2014

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Helping people live healthier lives by integrating and coordinating services and supports to treat the “whole-person” across the lifespan.

New Timeline for Chronic Conditions Health Homes Implementation

The State of Kansas is proud to announce that Health Homes for people with serious mental illnesses launched on July 1 with the enrollment of participants.

Enrollment for people with chronic conditions will be launched at a later date, in order to

allow additional time for the provider network to expand and ensure access for members.

A critical component of the Kansas model for Health Homes is the guarantee of consumer choice. We require that consumers have a choice of two or more Health Home Partners in each county for each

type of Health Home.

We will continue working towards network adequacy and re-evaluate after January 1, 2015.

For questions, please contact KDHE at healthhomes@kdheks.gov or call (785) 296-3981.

Health Homes Manager: Rick Hoffmeister

Thank you for your interest and loyal readership of the Health Homes Herald. As I assume my new role in the program, I'd like to highlight a few notable dates and encourage providers and consumers alike to reach out to me with questions. The assignment letters for the SMI target population have now all gone out and this population will begin to receive services August 1. We anticipate that additional eligible members will be identified as we move forward and we will begin accepting referrals October 1.

With regard to the chronic conditions (CC) target population, we will continue to work to build our provider network. The state will be providing weekly updates regarding the CC network and I cannot stress enough that we are fully committed to implementing Health Homes for members with chronic conditions. I regret the difficulties that this delay has caused providers and ask for your continued support and engagement as we continue to work towards our goal.

As always, you may contact me with any questions you may have.

-Rick Hoffmeister

Email: rhoffmeister@kdheks.gov

Phone: (785) 368-6260

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Upcoming News and Events

- HH Design Team Meeting — July 30, 2014
- Coming Soon: HAP webinar series for Care Managers/ Coordinators to begin in late Aug.
- Health Homes Learning Collaborative — September, 2014.

Questions?

Email: healthhomes@kdheks.gov

Phone: (785) 296-3981



Consumers' Frequently Asked Questions

I received a letter in the mail about Health Homes. What happens next?

Congratulations on being eligible for Health Homes! These new services will help you manage your health and are in addition to what you already get in KanCare. These are extra services at no cost to you.

A Health Home is not a place. You will still live where you are and you do not have to be in a Health Home if you do not want to. If you do choose to be in a Health Home, someone from your Health Home will contact you soon to set up a time to meet and talk about your health and health goals. You do not have to do anything if you want to receive Health Homes services.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about how Health Homes will help you stay healthy, you may contact Samantha Ferencik:

Email: sferencik@kdheks.gov

Phone: (785) 296-8001

Update from Wichita State University Center for Community Support & Research

In June, 172 people participated live in the Health Homes Webinar Series. June topics focused on specific provider populations (Targeted Case Management and Primary Health Care Providers) and how they connect with the Health Homes Initiative. Recordings, transcripts, and Question & Answer documents for these, and all previous webinars, can be found at http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home/providers_webinar_series.htm.

Beginning in the fall, WSU CCSR will begin contacting Health Home Partners to participate in a Learning Collaborative that is designed for peer-to-peer learning and support in order to provide continuous improvement of the Health Homes system. Additionally, CCSR is excited to announce that our organization has been awarded a two-year grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to provide training for Health Home care managers and care coordinators on how to develop and write quality Health Action Plans. This training will include web-based and live opportunities for staff to learn and practice their skills in working with Health Home members to develop realistic and achievable goals. This training will begin in August 2014 – watch for your invitation!

If you would like more information regarding any of the upcoming events you may contact:

Vanessa Lohf, LBSW

WSU Center for Community Support & Research

Email: vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu

Phone: (316) 978-5380



SMI Health Home Providers: Implementation Calls Planned

The state is happy to announce plans to initiate a series of telephone calls with providers to ensure the SMI implementation is as streamlined as possible. The purpose of these calls will be to help identify systemic implementation issues and try to develop effective solutions as quickly as possible.

Calls will begin July 31 and occur weekly on Thursdays at 10 a.m. They will last one hour. Questions will be collected via the Health Homes e-mail box on the Health Homes website: healthhomes@kdheks.gov. Questions submitted in writing will be handled first and then questions can be taken from callers on the line. Priority will be given to questions from Health Home Partners. Questions from sub-contractors, including I/DD TCM providers, will be answered as time allows.

As a supplement to these calls, Rick Hoffmeister, the Health Homes Manager will maintain an issues log that reflects the nature of questions raised on the calls as well as their resolutions. The log will be published on website to record issues that are systemic, i.e. are not limited to one or two MCOs. Categories will be assigned to issues, such as: enrollment, opt-out information, Health Action Plan, subcontracting, spend down, TCM, etc. Individual MCO issues will be sent directly to the MCO single point of contact for resolution.

We hope that these calls and the accompanying documentation will prove useful to our providers as we work together to make the implementation of the SMI Health Homes a success. If you have questions about these calls you may Rick Hoffmeister:

Email: healthhomes@kdheks.gov

Phone: (785) 296-3981

Website: http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home.htm

Please put “SMI Implementation Calls” in the subject line to help us successfully direct your questions.

Chronic Conditions Health Home Providers

Though the Chronic Conditions (CC) Health Homes have been delayed, the state hopes that the momentum we've enjoyed so far with this project does not fade. Now is a perfect opportunity for community providers to take advantage of the delay by using this time to better flesh out existing partnerships or build new ones.

We will continue to evaluate the status of the provider network across the state and will be providing regular updates as new data is available. If you have questions please feel free to contact Samantha Ferencik:

Email: sferencik@kdheks.gov

Phone: (785) 296-8001



Childhood Vaccines: Serious Adverse Events Rare

The benefits of routine childhood vaccines outweigh the risks of rare adverse events, according to results of a new systematic review. Although some vaccines are associated with serious adverse events, these events are extremely rare, the authors write.

The researchers conducted a literature review of the safety of vaccines routinely recommended for children aged 6 years and younger and found that the strength of evidence is high that the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) is not associated with the onset of autism in children, and MMR; diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis vaccination (DTaP); tetanus-diphtheria (Td); Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib); and hepatitis B vaccines are not associated with childhood leukemia.

"Our findings may allay some patient, caregiver, and health care provider concerns," the authors conclude.

Margaret A. Maglione, MPP, from RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California, and colleagues addressed the safety of these vaccines. The results of their review were published online July 1 in *Pediatrics*. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality commissioned the review to identify any gaps in evidence regarding the safety of routinely recommended vaccines.

Concerns have led some parents to refuse the vaccines, resulting in the resurgence of diseases such as measles and pertussis.

The strength of evidence was high for a link between MMR and febrile seizures, and the varicella vaccine was associated with complications in immunodeficient individuals. There was moderate evidence that rotavirus vaccines are associated with intussusception, but these instances were all rare. For example, although 1 large US epidemiologic study found no association, a recent analysis of the US Post-Licensure

Rapid Immunization Safety Monitoring program found that both RotaTeq (Merck) and Rotarix (GlaxoSmithKline) were associated with intussusception in the short term.

Estimated rates were 1.1 to 1.5 cases per 100,000 doses of RotaTeq and 5.1 cases per 100,000 doses of Rotarix.

Limitations of the literature review include that the majority of studies did not investigate or identify risk factors for adverse events, and that the severity of adverse events was inconsistently reported, the authors acknowledge.

In light of this study, routine childhood vaccines are recommended. You can learn more about this and other studies at:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/827631>

Questions?

If you have questions, or would like more information about Health Homes in Kansas, please contact us. Our page on the KanCare website also contains information about the Health Homes project and documents are being updated regularly.

Phone: (785) 296-3981

Email: healthhomes@kdheks.gov

Website: http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home.htm

